



Belltown Community Council General meeting minutes

May 11th, 2016.

Belltown Community Center, 415 Bell Street, Seattle, WA. 98121.

Meeting called to order by Keith Kentop, Vice President.

Introductions:

David Levinson, Non-officer position; Tracy Roberts, Secretary; Keith Kentop, Vice President; Liam Hallihan, Non-officer position. Dean McColgan, President is out of town.

Keith: Thanks to Belltown Pub for the food tonight. Liam: Belltown Pub has great outside seating, a den in the back with benches, guitars and they allow dogs.

Keith: Approval of minutes. You can read the minutes on the BCC website. www.belltowncc.org

Announcements:

Keith:

* Elections will be held in June. Positions available are Vice President, position #2 and treasurer. They are for 2 year terms. You need to live in Belltown to be in the council. To vote, you have to attend 3 meetings in the previous year and the 4th meeting can be on day of vote.

* There is a jar by the food for donations for the council.

* There is a Great Strides Walk in Seattle on 5/22 to raise awareness of Cystic Fibrosis. <http://fightcf.cff.org>

* Fire Festival will be on Saturday, June 4th. There will be tours of Fire House #2. Information is on the facebook page, website and www.nextdoor.com site which is a good way to connect with the neighborhood. There will be some old fire engines, fire and glass blowing events.

Q: Cascadia Rising activities - Will BCC be there in June

A: Not at this time. Will look into it.

Laurie Ames, Neighborhood District Coordinator, City of Seattle:

The Mayor is doing a 'Find It Fix It' walk in Belltown. If there are sidewalks or tree pits that need work, they qualify. There's \$5,000 available for a community project at the end of the walk.

Officer Sam Cooke, Community Police Team, West Precinct added that the walk is a good opportunity to get attention, to talk about what needs to be done.

Speaker: CJ Holt, Project Manager, SDOT:

Calvin Goings, Regional Administrator for the US Small Business Association, is here to introduce CJ Holt from SDOT, to talk about the Bike Lane expansion. Calvin welcomed and thanked everyone for being here. He is the chair of the BCC Transportation Committee. The committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Uptown Espresso. Their role is to review projects and make comments and would love to get input from everyone. Last month he met with SDOT to discuss proposals. He introduced C.J. Holt.

CJ gave an overview of the project with power point, of the 2nd Avenue Safety Project. The mission is to deliver high quality, safe transportation. There are North - South lines called spines. Roads running East - West are connections to spines. They are building on what they have along 2nd Avenue from Pike to Pioneer Square. PBL means Protected by land and this is a physical division between cyclists and cars.

Why 2nd Avenue? It was included in the bike master plan, pedestrian master plan, transit master plan and climate action plan. 2nd Avenue is good as it's one way. There will be a 2 way protected bike lane added on the east side of the street, with a 3 foot buffer of raised boxes, with plants in them. The extension will go from Pike Street, north to Denny. New traffic signals will be put in, re-timing of existing ones, with left turn intersections having designated arrow for drivers, separating drivers from people walking and biking. There will be new traffic signals at Cedar, Clay and Vine streets. Some trees will be removed and replaced 2 for 1. 13 curb bulbs will need to be removed, the areas landscaped. Keeping bikes in one place, not on sidewalks, adding predictability. Places where there is a driveway, loading zone, there will be a buffer area raised 6" uphill and downhill. Traffic signals will be upgraded, synchronized. To balance so it works for everyone, detectors on the left turn lane will help with the flow of traffic for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians. It is in design now. Mailers have been sent out, getting input along the corridor. There will be a walkshop (walk and talk) to show and explain what is going on: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/2ndavepbl_belltown.htm

Construction will start this fall and will continue for about 8 months, wrapping up in Spring, 2017. Will try to phase construction, doing one corner at a time. ccbike@seattle.gov Ph# 206-615-1485.

Q&A, Comments:

* Yesler section works great.

* **Q:** Concerns about passing load zones outside buildings, 2nd and Vine, in the middle of the block.

A: Load zone stays. Need to look both ways and can still cross outside the bike lane. Will be a break in planter boxes, allowing parking.

* **Q:** Who has the right of way?

A: SPD answered: Peds always have the right of way. There is a blanket rule, even if they are in the wrong.

* **Q:** Eliminating the whole lane, will disrupt traffic. There is an increased amount of traffic during the peak time. Yesterday, the peak commute time between 0800 and 2030, bikes constituted 3% of road users.

A: Not completely losing the lane. Currently, there are left turn lanes and with pedestrians crossing the road, they block the traffic, which holds up traffic behind, so this will help.

* **Q:** Concerns about bus stops. There's a bike lane on Republican and they feel in danger as there's a bar, so there's nowhere to go if they need to suddenly change direction.

A: Bus stops will be on the west side of the street and bike lanes on the east side.

They are looking at the best way to make things work. Willing to come out and meet people and will respond to emails.

* **Q:** Why has Broad Street been left off the map?

A: It's there and definitely on the plan.

Speaker: Officer Sam Cook, Community Police Team, West Precinct, SPD:

New Captain Mike Teeter and Sgt Paul Gracy could not come today but Officer Sam Cook was asked to come at the last minute. Sam works in the West Precinct, has been in the SPD for 18 years, almost all that time downtown, about 11 years patrolling and about 5 years in SLU patrolling. He has no political aspirations and will give an open and honest answer.

He said that Mike Teeter has been in the police for over 25 years, working in DUI for part of that. Mike said it's going to be fun and Sam is looking forward to working with him. They are looking for new projects.

The Community Police Team (CPT) consists of 4 officers plus 1 civilian, Terrie Johnston, a crime prevention specialist. They are mostly working on long term projects like the homeless situation. The team will come out to do home assessments to prevent crime, make improvements and have living room conversations. They are usually easy to get hold of. They have car prowls initiatives and left information, flyers about this for everyone.

Q/A's:

* Compliment. 4-way stops at 4th and Cedar have a lot of cars running the stop signs. An email was sent about this and there was a very quick response, which was great, within 24hrs.

* **Q:** Question and comment about the homeless camp at Western and Bell.

A: The police do a sweep of the area and then the homeless return, then it repeats, but nothing changes. From the SPD's perspective, they don't feel right about pushing people out unless there is an alternative on offer. Some are complicated cases. One person, for example, doesn't do well in shelters. The police go through the site intermittently to make sure it doesn't get out of control, trash, etc.

* Comment from a representative/worker from the YMCA on 3rd and Virginia. The Agency is making changes. They need the community involvement and want to work together. She asked to leave cards with us on the desk.

* **Q:** Question about the unused building on 4th Avenue and Bell Street (Franklin).

A: SPD have been working with the owners of the building for months. It's hard to convince owners to spend money and make improvements. About once a month, the SPD go through to clear the building out of squatters. Most using are adults, not youth. 75% have severe mental health issues. They bring 'Reach Out' with them when they go through the building.

* **Q:** Concerns when there's a fire alarm, emergencies in a building, that there is a security risk as fire codes unlock the building.

A: Advised to contact their condo association, go to meetings.

Speaker: Steve Hall, Friends of Historic Belltown:

Concerns about development? You should be worried. There's a different character of buildings coming. Friends of Historic Belltown are fighting to save buildings on 2nd Avenue. They were the largest group ever, greater than 100 people, who went to the Landmark Building meeting. Their slogan is 'It starts on 2nd!'. They want to preserve and promote Belltown's character and characters. Steve has lived in Belltown for 16 years. He loves it, loves walking and biking through it. He's a wildlife biologist and works to preserve wildlife habitat.

Tiffany is the co-lead, Tim does the artwork, Catherine Hunt, Jane Sevard with more on the team. They are about 3 things, buildings, business and Belltowners.

The Franklin building waned on being nominated, but it was nominated. Things will happen if it doesn't go to default.

The proposed building where Mama's Mexican Kitchen is, they are trying to get it more like Belltown. Belltown Bootcamp, War on blah. Buildings should reflect Belltown. Belltowners care about the neighborhood. Traditionally, workforce people, but they don't earn much. Historic Belltown group takes inventory of the assets in Belltown, submitted for application. They are investigating an Arts and Culture District aspect on 2nd Avenue, including Tula's, The Crocodile, making the area valuable. The music industry can come to Belltown. Another concept they are looking at is 'Woonerf', activate the alleys and improve the area.

Asked for in a grant:

- * Community engagement plan- grant to engage with people.
 - * Build on past efforts.
 - * Historic and iconic building inventory.
 - * Public and private realms inventory and mapping.
 - * Workforce housing study.
 - * Small business economic development study.
 - * Synthesis report and Development concept plan. After 1 year, get together, have a plan/formal document for the city.
- Very excited about it.

Questions/Answers/Comments:

Q: What's happening with the Spaghetti House?

A: A.M. Hitchcock answered: It has renewed its lease for another 2 years.

C: Bike lane initiative/plan doesn't work with Belltown.

A: Places with protected bike lanes offer good shopping opportunities.

C: A cyclist and mother stated that she feels more and more Belltowners don't show up to meetings and in reference to the above comment about the bike plan not working, said she doesn't see how it takes away from Belltown.

Q: How do we get small businesses to come here?

Steve doesn't want aspirational plan, he wants an action plan to take to the city.

C: Someone needs help with an event, It's a art event, but the city consider it a commercial event and would like some help, as it makes a big difference.

Please sign up for updates. There will not be many. <http://friendsofhistoricbelltown.org>

Announcements:

David Levinson: Next month, at 5.30pm, prior to the BCC General meeting, will be the first public meeting to work on an art grant for Art in the alleyways. We need as many people as can come.

Keith introduced Tom Graff to talk about the Fire Fest: It's been going on and off for 25 years. It's mostly done in Pioneer Square, acknowledging the Great Fire. On June 4th - 5th. From 11am to 4pm on Sat. 6/4 there will be Antique Fire Trucks, events in the center and on the street. The Fire House #2 will have an open house and is free. The fire house is the longest running fire station in the city. Sponsored cadets will have some events and contests between them, there will be activities for kids. Info will be posted on the website.

Betty Winfield, Friends of Art on Pier 86: Feasibility study was turned in and there cannot be any power washing on the grain elevators due to the run off into the sound per the EPA. Will have to have low level art work. Thanked for support. Link to Bett's project on site. <http://www.fap86.com/>

Meeting Adjourned by Keith Kentop, Vice President.

Minutes taken by Tracy Roberts, Secretary, BCC.